

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for initializing a control unit for controlling an internal combustion engine in a vehicle, comprising:

detecting a start request probability as a function of a signal of a detecting device, a start request being detected as a function of a signal of a further detecting device; and

performing, as a function of the detected start request probability, the following steps:

checking the vehicle,

ensuring an interruption in a flow of power between the internal combustion engine and driven wheels,

setting the internal combustion engine in motion by an electric motor,

synchronizing the control unit with the internal combustion engine so that the control unit detects a position of the internal combustion engine,

deactivating the electric motor, and

switching the control unit to a standby mode, the control unit waiting for a start request.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

securing the vehicle to prevent rolling.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

storing data describing the synchronization of the internal combustion engine with the control unit; and

switching the control unit to an inactive mode unless a start request is detected within a predefinable period of time.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein a synchronization of the control unit with the internal

combustion engine takes place only if no data describing the synchronization are stored.

5. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

switching the control unit to an active mode upon detection of the start request; and

reading the stored data describing the synchronization of the internal combustion engine with the control unit when the control unit switches from the inactive mode to the active mode.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the performing step is performed only if the detected start request probability exceeds a predefinable value, the start request probability exceeding the predefinable value if at least one of a driver's door is opened, and a driver's seat is occupied.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the vehicle includes an automated or an automatic transmission, and wherein locking of the driven wheels is ensured when the automated or automatic transmission is in a parking position.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the vehicle includes an automated or an automatic clutch, wherein the flow of power between the internal combustion engine and the driven wheels is interrupted by activating the automated or automatic clutch.

9. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the vehicle includes an electric parking brake and wherein the vehicle is secured to prevent rolling by activating the electric parking brake.

10. A control unit in an internal combustion engine in a vehicle, an arrangement configured to detect a start request probability and an arrangement configured to detect a start request being assigned to the control unit, the control unit comprising:

an arrangement configured to perform the following steps as a function of a detected start request probability:

checking the vehicle;

ensuring an interruption in a flow of power between the internal combustion engine and driven wheels;

setting the internal combustion engine in motion by an electric motor;

synchronizing the control unit with the internal combustion engine so that the control unit detects a position of the internal combustion engine;

deactivating the electric motor; and

switching the control unit to a standby mode, the control unit waiting for a start request.

11. A storage device storing a computer program, which, when executed on a microprocessor in a vehicle having an internal combustion engine, causes the microprocessor to perform:

performing, as a function of a detected start request probability, the following steps:

checking the vehicle;

ensuring an interruption in a flow of power between the internal combustion engine and driven wheels;

setting the internal combustion engine in motion by an electric motor;

synchronizing a control unit with the internal combustion engine so that the control unit detects a position of the internal combustion engine;

deactivating the electric motor; and

switching the control unit to a standby mode, the control unit waiting for a start request.

12. The computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the storage device is stored is one of a random-access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM) or a flash memory.